

HARRISON, C. J. O. & PARKER, S. A. (1966): The eggs of the White-tailed Blue Chat *Cinclidium leucurum* and the Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 86: 71-73.

HARRISON, C. J. O. & PARKER, S. A. (1967): The eggs of Woodford's Rail, Rouget's Rail and the Malayan Banded Crake. *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* 87: 14-16.

19. THE INDIAN GREY TIT (*PARUS MAJOR*) ON AN ABANDONED HONEY COMB

In the compound of the Irrigation Department's guest house at Nandur-Madhameshwar (Nasik District), there are a number of honey combs on the branches of two large ficus trees at a height of over 50 feet. On 11th February 1985, while we were watching two spotted owlets on an adjacent tree, we noticed a Grey Tit (*Parus major*) perched on the top half of an abandoned honey comb. Perching at an angle of 135° to the ground, the tit kept probing into the hexagonal cells in the comb. Though we are unable to state with any degree of certainty that there were no insects present in the comb, we are reasonably certain that there were none. This is because the top half of the comb was white, and therefore totally devoid of honey, the bottom portion of the comb was brown and may have contained some honey residue, and therefore maybe some insects also. Secondly, during a previous trip to Nandur-Madhameshwar in July 1984,

we had picked up a honey comb from the ground from practically the same spot. This honey comb was also empty both of honey and insects, and the fact that the entire comb was intact indicated that the comb had not been knocked down from the tree by any human agency for the sake of its honey.

Sálím Ali and S. Dillon Ripley, in the HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN (Vol. 9, pp. 169) state that the food of the grey tit comprises of "insects, caterpillars, seeds, flower buds and berries". We are unable to find any other reference on the food of the Indian Grey Tit. Mr Humayun Abdulali, when consulted, was unable to recall the sighting of a grey tit on a honey comb.

We would therefore conclude that though there is a possibility that the grey tit may not have been feeding on the wax, the sighting of the tit on the honey comb itself should be recorded.

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74, TURNER ROAD,
BANDRA, BOMBAY 400 050,
July 10, 1985.

DEBI GOENKA

HETA PANDIT

20. HOST PLANTS USED BY BAYA WEAVER BIRD (*PLOCEUS PHILIPPINUS* LINN.) FOR NESTING IN EASTERN RAJASTHAN (Breeding period 1982)

A study has been done by me on plants preferred by *Ploceus philippinus* Linn. for nesting in two districts of Eastern Rajasthan viz. Alwar and Bharatpur. For this purpose I cycled some 280 km on the following roads:

1. 30 km on N.H. 11 from Bharatpur to Halena; 2. 110 km on S.H. 14 from Bharatpur to Alwar; 3. 60 km on S.H. 14 from Alwar to Behror; 4. 20 km on N.H. 8 from Behror to Neemrana; 5. 30 km on S.H. 13 from Sariska